

# Proposals for CLIAC Recommendation

Note: This is a draft for presentation  
and discussion at CLIAC Nov 2016

# Background

- Follow-up of 'actionable' laboratory test results is a significant vulnerability
- A 2012 review by Callen et al in *Journal of General Internal Medicine* shows 6.8%-62% of abnormal laboratory tests are not followed-up on a timely basis
- Electronic communication systems can facilitate lab results delivery to both providers and patients
- However, follow-up vulnerabilities are not eliminated with use of electronic systems
- Improving follow-up of actionable test results is a 'shared responsibility' among many involved stakeholders

# Proposal 1

- HHS should convene a multidisciplinary group\* to
  - Develop a framework for achieving effective communication of ‘actionable’ laboratory test results to clinical providers and patients with clear guidelines on timelines for communicating those results
  - Provide an implementation and evaluation plan for the framework
- Examples of guidance for the framework include 2015 VHA policy on communicating test results

[http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=3148](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=3148)

\* includes, but is not limited to, representatives from CMS, FDA, CDC, CAP, lab industry representatives, all CLIA approved accrediting organizations, informaticians, human factors engineers, lab directors/professionals, clinician end-users, patient/consumer representatives, health IT developers/vendors, Joint Commission & other relevant professional organizations.

# Proposal 2

- HHS should recommend all health care institutions create interdisciplinary teams comprised of clinical and laboratory health care professionals as well as health IT & other safety/human factors experts. This team should conduct periodic institutional self-assessments to address areas of risk and improvement related to safe communication and follow-up of actionable laboratory results
  - Examples of guidance include “Test Results Reporting & Follow-up” ONC SAFER Guide (<https://www.healthit.gov/safer/guide/sg008> )